



City of Cedar Park 2017 Legislative Agenda  
85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

General Legislative Philosophy & Policy:

As a general policy, the City of Cedar Park seeks to preserve its current authority to govern the City. The City of Cedar Park believes that governance and politics at the local level are closest to the people and, therefore, able to produce positive outcomes for the citizens of Cedar Park. During each legislative session numerous proposals are made that have the potential to seriously erode our community's ability to carry out its overall mission. By taking a proactive role in monitoring the activities of the Texas Legislature, we can ensure that the citizens of Cedar Park can continue to enjoy the quality of life they have come to expect and deserve.

The City of Cedar Park will support any legislation that advances the City's strategic goals and interests, and conversely, will oppose legislation that the Council views as detrimental or contrary to the City's ability to successfully self-govern the community.

The City follows, and responds to when deemed necessary, legislation pertaining to: local budgeting authority and revenue sources, infrastructure issues including water and transportation, annexation, economic development programs and authority, preservation of local land use planning and zoning, emergency services districts, and any other issue impacting the citizens of Cedar Park.

Issue Specific Positions (TML Supported):

**Support and Monitor Legislation that Would Streamline the Reallocation of Dedicated Sales Tax Revenues.** The passage of H.B 157 during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature allowed cities to hold an election to reallocate sales tax revenue, allowing a city to determine whether dedicated sales taxes should be increased or decreased (subject to the 2% local maximum), or whether a general revenue would better serve the city's needs. However, under existing legislation, the reallocation of dedicated sales tax to general revenue requires multiple ballot propositions. The City of Cedar Park supports the authorization of a combined ballot proposition for reallocation of dedicated or special purpose sales tax revenues to the general revenue sales and use tax fund and a local election to increase or decrease the Type B sales and use tax rate within the jurisdiction.

**Support and Monitor Legislation Dealing with Videoconferencing Use for City Council Meetings.** The passage of H.B. 2414 and S.B. 984 during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature resolved several issues related to the ability of a governmental body to hold public meetings by videoconference call. However, the passage of both bills also resulted in conflicting sections within Texas Government Code Section 551.127, which essentially makes it infeasible to conduct a meeting using videoconferencing. The City of Cedar Park supports any legislation that resolves these inconsistencies and makes it possible for governing bodies to utilize videoconferencing technology for public meetings pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**Support and Monitor Legislation Dealing with Handguns on Government Property Leased to Private Tenants.** The City of Cedar Park supports legislation to codify Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. KP-108 and amend Texas Penal Code, Sections 30.06 and 30.07 to authorize private lessees to post signage prohibiting the possession of handguns on property leased from a governmental entity.

**Support and Monitor Legislation that Would Expedite the Certification of Tax Rolls.** In prior years, protests by other taxing units have resulted in delays for Cedar Park's tax roll certification, creating complications related to the City's budget timeline. The City of Cedar Park supports legislation that would authorize the Chief Appraiser to certify tax rolls for non-protesting taxing units and prevents the protests of other entities from impacting the City's tax roll certification timeframe.